

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 ISO-00 /011 R

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APPROVED BY:ACDA/IR:AFLOYD

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R 261803Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUDORRA/USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 150736

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO MBFR VIENNA

INFO NATO LONDON BONN DTG P R 250054Z JUN 75 FM SECSTATE

QUOTE

SECRET STATE 149033

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJ: MBFR: GUIDANCE ON EXCHANGE OF ARMAMENTS DATA

REF: MBFR 257

1. WE RECOGNIZE THE DILEMMA THAT WOULD BE POSED IF THE EAST OFFERED TO EXCHANGE DATA CONDITIONAL UPON OUR OFFERING DATA ON ALL ARMAMENTS. NONETHELESS, FOR TACTICAL REASONS, WE ARE RELUCTANT TO ASK FOR NAC REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM UNTIL IT ACTUALLY DEVELOPS. PREVIOUS INDICATIONS OF EASTERN WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS DATA CONSUMED MUCH SPC DISCUSSION WITHOUT IMMEDIATE RESULT. ADDITIONALLY, SINCE THE NAC AND SPC WILL BE INVOLVED IN REVIEW OF OUR OPTION III PROPOSAL, WE WOULD NOT WISH TO DIVERT UNNECESSARILY THEIR ATTENTION OR IMPLY APPROACHES TO OPTION III CEILINGS ISSUES THAT INVOLVE

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ALLIED EQUIPMENT DATA.

2. SUBSTANTIVELY, WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HYPOTHESIZE A DISCUSSION ON ARMAMENTS DATA OTHER THAN TANKS THAT WOULD NOT PREJUDICE OUR CURRENT NEGOTIATING APPROACH, AS THE WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS DATA ON A PARTICULAR CATEGORY STRONGLY IMPLIES AN ULTIMATE WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ABOUT THAT CATEGORY. MOREOVER, A DISCUSSION OF ANTI-TANK DATA, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD BE USED TO ARGUE AGAINST OUR EMPHASIS ON THE

TANK DISPARITY. ADDITIONALLY, THERE ARE NOT NOW NATO AGREED FIGURES FOR MANY ARMAMENTS. ONCE OPTION III IS AN ACTIVE ISSUE IN VIENNA, DISCUSSIONS OF SOME ARMAMENTS MIGHT BECOME MORE APPROPRIATE.

3. IF THE SITUATION POSTULATED REFTEL DOES DEVELOP AND THE EAST ACTUALLY OFFERS SUCH AN EXCHANGE, WE SEE A NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE RESPONSES WHICH WOULD NOT PREJUDICE OUR POSITION. WE MIGHT RESPOND AS SUGGESTED REFTEL THAT WE COULD NOT CONSIDER GOING BEYOND THAT DATA WE HAD ALREADY TABLED UNTIL WE SATISFIED OURSELVES THAT A MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BASED ON A RECIPROCAL EXCHANGE HAD OCCURRED WITH RESPECT TO THAT DATA (I.E., MANPOWER AND TANKS).

4. ALTERNATIVELY, WE MIGHT RESPOND BY SUGGESTING A DATA EXCHANGE THAT WAS BASED ON THOSE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE INCLUDED IN BOTH PROPOSALS (I.E., MANPOWER AND TANKS).

5. THERE IS THE ADDITIONAL POSSIBILITY OF RESTRICTING THE EXCHANGE TO MANPOWER AND OFFERING TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL TYPES OF DATA EXCHANGE BASED ON THE DEGREE OF SUCCESS OBTAINED FROM THAT DIALOGUE. WE COULD EMPHASIZE OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS AIR MANPOWER, AN ELEMENT NOT INHERENT IN OUR PROPOSAL.

6. WE WOULD APPRECIATE MISSION AND DELEGATION COMMENTS ON THESE POSSIBLE APPROACHES. KISSINGER
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, DATA, INFORMATION CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE150736
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DOD/ISA:RCLARKE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750223-0488
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750612/aaaaakxn.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MBFR 257
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: GUIDANCE ON EXCHANGE OF ARMAMENTS DATA
TAGS: PARM, XH, XG, US, NATO, MBFR
To: USNMR SHAPE USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006